



Utah Agriculture

Utah Field Office · PO Box 25007 · Salt Lake City, Utah 84125
(800) 747-8522 · (801) 524-3090 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

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Rick Kestle, Director

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Planting Intentions

UTAH: According to the Utah Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Utah farm operators, as of March 1, 2008 intend to plant more acres of all wheat. Spring wheat planting intentions were up, but winter wheat acres planted were down from the 2007 growing season. Planting intentions for oats are at the same level as last year. Barley intentions are slightly lower than last year's level. **Corn** growers intended to plant 70,000 acres the same as the previous year. **All wheat** planting intentions were estimated at 150,000 acres, 4,000 acres more than last year. **Winter wheat** planting at 130,000 acres is 4 percent lower than the previous year. **Spring wheat** planting is expected to total 20,000 acres, up 82 percent from 2007. If current grower intentions are realized, Utah farmers will plant 35,000 acres of **oats**, equal to last year. **Barley** planting intentions at 37,000 acres, are down 1,000 acres from last year. Planting intentions for **dry edible beans** are 2,000 acres, an increase of 500 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES: **Corn** growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the largest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production. **All wheat** planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year. **Oats:** Growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. Most of the decrease in acreage of oats is expected to be in the Great Plains States. Acreage intentions declined in 15 of the 30 estimating States. The largest acreage decline is expected to occur in South Dakota, where growers intend to plant 200,000 acres this year, 130,000 fewer than were planted in 2007. Prospective oat acreage in North Dakota declined 110,000 acres. The largest expected increase in acreage from last year is in California, where an additional 50,000 acres of oats are expected to be sown. **Barley:** Growers intend to plant 4.15 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing State, expected planted area is 1.55 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. Growers in California, Wyoming, and Virginia intend to increase their acreage by 35 percent or more. In Michigan, New York, and Utah, acreage is expected to decline to record low levels and Nevada producers intend to match their lowest acreage on record established last year. **Dry Beans:** Growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres in 2008, down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2006. The decrease in planted acres can be mainly attributed to higher prices for competing crops and lack of soil moisture in some States. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 98,500 acres, down 22 percent from last year and 28 percent lower than 2006. Small chickpea area, at 15,400 acres, is 39 percent higher than 2007 but 11 percent lower than 2006. Large chickpea acreage is expected to be 27 percent less than last year and 30 percent lower than 2006. Small chickpeas are defined as peas that will pass through a 20/64 inch round hole screen.

Weekly Crop Weather

Starting April 7 we will begin a new year of publishing our weekly Crop Progress & Conditions report. Every Monday afternoon we summarize agricultural progress in the State based on weather and growing conditions during the previous week. We report the conditions of pasture, crops and livestock (ranging from very poor to excellent), soil moisture conditions (from very short to surplus), and planting, fruiting and harvesting progress for selected crops. Results of this weekly survey can be found at our website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ut/>. We collect the data for this report from a group of dedicated crop reporters scattered throughout the State. These include Extension Agents, FSA CED's, our own survey enumerators, and others.

Agricultural Prices

UTAH: Mid-March 2008 prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers for baled alfalfa hay was \$150.00 per ton, the same as last month, but up \$37.00 per ton from last year. Other hay, at \$125.00 per ton, was down \$5.00 from last month, but \$38.00 higher than March 2007. Barley at \$5.38 per bushel and was up \$1.68 from the same month last year. The average price of all milk purchased in February 2008 from Utah farmers was \$18.70 per hundred wt. (Cwt) down \$1.50 from January 2008, but up \$3.80 from February 2007.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 17 points (13 percent) from March 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 149, increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from last month and increased 15 points (11 percent) from March 2007.

Average Prices Received by Farmers ¹

Commodity	Utah						United States					
	Barley ²		Alfalfa Hay Baled ³		Other Hay Baled ³		Barley ²		Alfalfa Hay Baled ³		Other Hay Baled ³	
Month	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
January	3.65	6.03	105.00	145.00	79.00	120.00	3.03	4.34	112.00	135.00	104.00	118.00
February	3.91	(⁴)	107.00	150.00	81.00	130.00	3.09	4.39	115.00	138.00	107.00	122.00
March	3.70	5.38	113.00	150.00	87.00	125.00	3.11	4.75	121.00	143.00	115.00	128.00
April	3.18		113.00		85.00		3.07		127.00		115.00	
May	3.72		120.00		90.00		3.12		145.00		115.00	
June	(⁴)		121.00		92.00		3.30		137.00		111.00	
July	3.38		123.00		105.00		3.45		137.00		113.00	
August	3.39		130.00		118.00		3.54		137.00		118.00	
September	4.71		132.00		114.00		4.04		135.00		124.00	
October	5.58		132.00		110.00		4.50		137.00		122.00	
November	5.22		135.00		120.00		4.34		135.00		123.00	
December	4.99		140.00		120.00		4.51		136.00		126.00	

¹ March 2008 is mid-month. ² Dollars per bushel. ³ Dollars per ton. ⁴ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

Commodity ¹	Utah		United States	
	All Milk		All Milk	
Month	2007	2008	2007	2008
January	14.50	20.20	14.50	20.50
February	14.80	18.70	14.90	19.10
March	15.60		15.60	18.30 ²
April	16.00		16.60	
May	17.80		18.00	
June	20.10		20.20	
July	21.20		21.70	
August	21.00		21.60	
September	21.40		21.70	
October	21.10		21.40	
November	21.10		21.90	
December	21.10		21.50	

¹ Dollars per hundred wt.(CWT) ² preliminary

Grain Stocks

UTAH: On March 1, 2008, **corn** stocks stored off farm totaled 1,294,000 bushels, up 66,000 bushels from last year. **All wheat** off farm stocks totaled 4,147,000, down 1,205,000 bushels from last year. **Barley** stocks estimated at 327,000 bushels were up 140,000 bushels compared to the same period last year.

UNITED STATES: **Corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2007-February 2008 indicated disappearance is 3.42 billion bushels, compared with 2.86 billion bushels during the same period last year. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.0 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is 422 million bushels, down 8 percent from the same period a year earlier. **Durum wheat** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 25.2 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 8.10 million bushels, are down 53 percent from March 1, 2007. Off-farm stocks totaled 17.1 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance of 14.6 million bushels is up 17 percent from the same period a year earlier. **Barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 105 million bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 28.3 million bushels, 26 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 76.5 million bushels, are 3 percent below March 2007. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance totaled 31.0 million bushels, 44 percent below the same period a year earlier. **Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 79.0 million bushels, 11 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 31.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 48.0 million bushels, up 29 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2007 - February 2008 totaled 15.4 million bushels, down 45 percent from the same period a year ago.

Manufactured Dairy Products

UTAH: **Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) in January 2008, at 6.7 million pounds, was 19.2 percent below January 2007, and 31.8 percent below December 2007. **Hard ice cream** production at 2.0 million gallons, was 17.1 percent above January 2007, and was 7.1 percent above December 2007.

UNITED STATES: **Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) was 810 million pounds, 1.9 percent below January 2007 and 4.0 percent below December 2007. **Italian type cheese** production totaled 350 million pounds, 1.1 percent below January 2007 and 1.9 percent below December 2007. **American type cheese** production totaled 334 million pounds, 2.7 percent below January 2007 and 0.2 percent below December 2007. **Butter** production was 170 million pounds, 12.7 percent above January 2007 and 20.9 percent above December 2007. **Hard Ice Cream** production at 62.8 million gallons was down 3.1 percent from January 2007, but up 19.7 percent from December 2007.

Manufactured Dairy Production – January 2007-2008 with Comparisons

Product	Utah			United States		
	January 2007	December ¹ 2007	January 2008	January 2007	December ¹ 2007	January 2008
1,000 Pounds						
Total Cheese	8,284	9,813	6,691	825,969	843,704	810,019
1,000 Gallons						
Hard ice cream	1,750	1,914	2,049	64,840	52,505	62,848

¹ Revised.

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Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 43.5 million pounds in February 2008, up 27 percent from the same month of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for February 2008 totaled 54.6 thousand head, 27 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,285 pounds, down 9 pounds from February 2007. **Hog slaughter** totaled 3,300 head up 3 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was 181 pounds, up 3 pounds from the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during February 2008 totaled 2,600 head, the same as the previous year. Average live weight, at 140 pounds, was up 3 pounds from the previous year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007. **Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 11.0 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,100 head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from February 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter				
February 2007-2008 ¹				
Item	Utah		United States	
	February		February	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Production (Millions Pounds)				
Red Meat	34.2	43.5	3,615.4	3,967.6
Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)				
Cattle	43.0	54.6	2,561.2	2,643.2
Calves	1	1	66.7	69.1
Hogs	3.2	3.3	8,117.3	9,378.1
Sheep & Lambs	2.6	2.6	204.7	211.4
Average Live Weight (Pounds)				
Cattle	1,294	1,285	1,274	1,285
Calves	1	1	308	272
Hogs	178	181	269	271
Sheep & Lambs . . .	137	140	140	143

¹ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations